

***Topsfield Conservation Commission***  
***Minutes of Wednesday, January 23, 2013***  
Topsfield Library Meeting Room

**Present:** Commissioners Mark Erickson (Chair), Holger Luther, Jim MacDougall, Cheryl Jolley, and Jim Carroll; Administrator Lana Spillman; Minutes Secretary Debbie Rogers; Selectman Liaison Dick Gandt.

**Absent:** Jennie Merrill and Rick Muka

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM with a quorum present.

**HEARINGS:**

**Continuation NoI #307- 0695: 224A & 230 Boston Street**, (Map 49, Lots 043 & 045), National Grid/AECOM Environment

Present: Tom Keough, AECOM; Dan McIntyre, National Grid; Joshua Holden, National Grid; Joe Geller, Rail Trail Committee

A hearing was held for a continuation of NoI #307- 0695 for 224A & 230 Boston Street to discuss the reconstruction of a substation. The TCC visited the site and did not request any changes to the plan. A tentative schedule showing a timeline of construction was submitted. Geller, Chairman of the Rail Trail Committee, asked how the project will impact the use of the Rail Trail. Keough explained how there will be a spotter and the trail will not be shut down for any significant length of time. National Grid will have a spotter to keep the area safe as trucks and equipment cross over the trail; and this activity is expected to minimally impact trail use. Temporary mats will protect the compacted gravel. The timing of the project will be scheduled to avoid high traffic times. Any damage to the trail from construction will be repaired. Geller inquired about signage along the trail to inform trail users of the ongoing construction and that it may be necessary to stop ahead. The signs could be attached to the fence located approximately 20 feet from the trail. There was discussion on how the signs could also provide an opportunity to educate the public about improvements to the substation.

Luther made a motion to close the hearing. Jolley seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Luther moved to issue an Order of Conditions for project 307-0695 at 224A and 230 Boston Street, based on the original drawings presented titled "Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plan, Notice of Intent Topsfield Substation No. 26, Nationalgrid Massachusetts Electric Company 224 A Boston Road" dated 12-10-2012. The OoC is subject to the usual conditions, and some special conditions such as maintaining a spill kit onsite and providing the Administrator with the appropriate construction schedules. The TCC requested to be informed of project revisions and ongoing environmental monitoring. The motion was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

**NOI #307-0696: 123 Salem Road**, (Map 70, Lot 002) Krohg/DSD, Inc.

Present: Daniel Johnson, Septic System Designer

A public hearing was held to consider the NoI for a failed septic system located in Buffer Zone of BVW containing an Intermittent Stream. Johnson explained how the entire site is on a slope. The edge of the wetlands has been delineated and the relevant portion reviewed by Administrator Spillman, with two small modifications made. The proposed upgraded septic system will be located within 100 feet, but outside the 50 foot BZ radius. The new system will have less impact

on the environment than a conventional system. An existing stone wall will remain in place and none of the work will go beyond the 50 foot BZ area. Erosion controls will be in place and upon completion of the project, stabilization of the soil will include hydroseed. The work will be done in the summer during the driest time of the year, in July or August.

Luther made a motion to close the hearing. Jolley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Luther made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for the replacement of the septic system in accordance with the plan titled "Subsurface Sewage Disposal System 123 Salem Road, Topsfield (Map 70, Lot 2)" dated Revision 2, January 16, 2013 prepared by Daniel Johnson, subject to normal conditions, in addition to the conditions of stabilization with hydroseed and the use of mats. The motion was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

### **REQUESTS:**

**RDNI 2013-01: 14 Grove Street**, (Map 40, Lot 013), Audette

Present: John Morin, Neve-Morin Group, representing the applicant.

An OoC was issued for this property last fall. Morin explained how they would like to move the septic system to the front yard and move the location of the house back on the lot. The proposed changes would allow the dwelling to serve as a retaining wall and would increase the distance of the septic system from the well. The request is for soil testing in Riverfront Area of Cleaveland Brook. A backhoe would be used for the perc tests.

Luther made a Motion to issue a DNI with the usual conditions for the proposed work in the Riverfront Area. It was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

### **OTHER:**

**Tree Committee** – updates

Reggie Lockwood and Paul Harder, Tree Committee Members, were present.

There was discussion on a mission statement and proposed projects. Grant applications will be considered. The Bylaw Revolving Fund could provide matching funds for awarded grants. Tree Committee members will meet with other committees, including the TPB, and the BoS, to discuss program opportunities. The TCC will help coordinate a meeting for project planning. Project ideas included compiling a tree inventory, including a map to show the locations and the health of local tree species. MacDougall will research documents from when Tree Committee began in 2007 and suggested a list of native stock to lend advice to Park and Cemetery. There was discussion on identifying the purpose of the committee now, compared to the initial purpose. Current projects may include an educational program to protect native trees from invasive species such as Bittersweet, and replenishing the area with trees such as Silver Maples and disease resistant Elms. The Tree Committee will meet with the TCC in a month to discuss updates.

**OoC 307-0507: 120 High Street/Hickory Beach Subdivision**, (Map 49, Lot 056) – Stormwater Concerns

Spillman explained how the project has been ongoing for several years and there are Stormwater concerns. She has observed significant problems with the Stormwater drainage and there are several problem areas of sediment in the subdivision following a recent significant rain event. Spillman will write a letter to the TPB informing them of conservation issues and the

Commission's request to be part of the decision process. Some of the catch basins are full of sediment. The property needs to be monitored as there is an OoC for the subdivision.

**Amended Enforcement Order 9/15/08, 270 Boston Street, (Map 41, Lot 087) – Continued Discussion**

There was discussion on edits for the proposed Amended Enforcement Order drafted by Merrill. The TCC will contact Merrill to further discuss the conditions.

**Revisions to Topsfield General Wetlands Bylaw Regulations** – Review of Proposed Revisions  
Revisions to the Topsfield General Wetlands Bylaw Regulation were discussed and will be edited by the TCC.

**Greenscapes – Updates**

Spillman received an email from the watershed association (IRWA). On Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation at the Topsfield Library on organic landscaping. This is part of the Greenscapes program and they have requested input from the TCC. The pet waste project was discussed and distribution materials will be ready soon.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Luther made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from **December 12, 2012** and **January 9, 2013** both as amended. The motion was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Updates – Current Projects**

**Forest Cutting Plan, Meredith Farm**

The TCC has the opportunity to comment on the forest cutting plan. Spillman reviewed maps and noticed some intermittent streams are not shown on the map. There are concerns about logging activities and driving heavy equipment across a culvert to access trees in one area. The property is under an EPA Order; Spillman will inform the DCR Regional Service Forester of this.

**224 Boston Street, (Map 49, Lot 42) -- Current and Proposed Activities in Multiple Resource Areas**

MBD motors is considering renting part of the property for vehicle storage for a landscaping company. They inquired about parking the vehicles near perennial streams on the property. The TCC would need to approve the storage plan before the tenant can proceed. There was discussion on the appropriate filing. A NoI would be required. There is an outstanding OoC. Spillman will write a letter addressing these issues, as the location is deep in the flood plain area. The abutting property at 222 Boston Street was recently purchased by someone else for redevelopment.

**Permitting Software – Update**

Spillman provided a list of categories for the TCC to be used with the new permit software.

**43 Washington Street, (Map 32, Lot 021)**

An abutter had concerns about the use of herbicides and clearing of vegetation near an intermittent stream and created pool in the stream. Spillman will let the complainants know they need to call when the activity is happening, rather than after the fact for the TCC to monitor the situation.

**MACC Annual Conference**

The conference will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013. Those who are interested in attending should contact the office soon. The conference fee for Commission members will be paid for by the TCC, and scholarships may be available for those who attend for the first time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Luther at 9:12 PM to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jolley and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Rogers  
Minutes Secretary

*Accepted at the TCC meeting on February 27, 2013*

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.